

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 766

By Litz

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Regina Hickman-Swinney on her selection as Teacher of the Year at West Elementary School.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Regina Hickman-Swinney is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hickman-Swinney has recently been selected as Teacher of the Year by her colleagues at West Elementary School, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, being selected as Teacher of the Year at the school level is the first step in the competition for regional, state, and national honors; Ms. Hickman-Swinney will compete against other school-level winners from Hamblen County in order to advance to the district competition; and

WHEREAS, a music teacher at West Elementary, Regina Hickman-Swinney received a bachelor's degree in Music Education from East Tennessee State University and a master's degree in Curriculum Development and Assessment from the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, before joining the staff of West Elementary in 1992, Ms. Hickman-Swinney taught general music, beginning band, and music with the gifted at Lee County Public Schools in Virginia, and while teaching in various coal mining camps in Virginia, she founded and conducted the Mountain Children's Choir in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, her continuing studies include the Arts in the Elementary Classroom program of the Rose Center in Morristown, as well as the Rose Center's From Africa to Appalachia Foundation, a community-based educational program; and

WHEREAS, a member of local, state, and national education associations, Regina Hickman-Swinney is recognized in *Who's Who Among American Teachers*; and

WHEREAS, for the past fifteen years, Regina Hickman-Swinney has not only promoted the arts in the communities where she has lived, but she has also encouraged greater community involvement on behalf of adults with mental disabilities; one example of her commitment can be seen in her work with area musicians to perform for institutionalized adults at the Greene Valley Development Center; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hickman-Swinney is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, since returning to Tennessee in 1992, Ms. Hickman-Swinney has worked with after-school music groups, and in 2005, she auditioned children for the Morristown Youth Ballet Company and donated her services to their performance of the Nutcracker Ballet; and

WHEREAS, Regina Hickman-Swinney serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, truly epitomizing the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, Regina Hickman-Swinney should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Ms. Regina Hickman-Swinney on being chosen as West Elementary School's Teacher of the Year, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.